



Office of Communications News Release

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For Immediate Release
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National Park Service to Hold Scoping Meeting and Public Open House to Discuss the Washington Monument Visitor Screening Improvement Project; Agency Seeks Public Input

Washington, D.C. – The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking the public's input regarding planning efforts currently underway to replace and improve the existing visitor screening facility at the base of the Washington Monument. The NPS will host an open house and scoping meeting to share information about the project with the public as well as to provide the public with the opportunity to provide input into planning of the project.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the NPS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives for improving the visitor screening facility at the Washington Monument, located in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the proposed action is to replace the existing temporary facility and improve the overall security of the Monument in a manner that maintains and preserves the visitor experience and cultural landscape of the Washington Monument Grounds.

The NPS will hold the public scoping meeting on **November 8, 2010 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** at the NPS National Capital Region Headquarters, **1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, D.C.** An open house, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., will be followed by a presentation and discussion. NPS staff will be available to take comments and answer questions.

In 2001, a visitor screening facility was constructed that was intended to be temporary. In 2006, the NPS completed permanent security improvements which included a comprehensive landscape solution for a perimeter vehicular barrier system. However, the proposed screening facility and underground connection to the Monument was never implemented. The NPS is currently revisiting the feasibility of replacing the existing temporary facility with a new visitor screening facility. The EA will explore several new design alternatives for the proposed facility which were not considered in 2006.

The public scoping meeting will also provide the first opportunity for consultation on the project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 is the process by which federal agencies take into account the effect of undertakings upon historic resources on or eligible for the National Register for Historic Places.

The NPS will accept written comments regarding planning efforts for the proposed project through **11:59 p.m. on December 8, 2010**. The most efficient way to submit public written comments is on-line (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/nama>), but the public may also submit comments by fax, or via the U.S. Mail Service.

Fax comments to:

Attn: Washington Monument Security and Visitor Screening Improvement Project
(202) 401-0017

Mail comments directly to:

Greg Cody, Technical Specialist for Cultural Resources
National Park Service, Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
Attn: Washington Monument Security and Visitor Screening Improvement Project

Driving Directions to the NPS National Capital Region Office at 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C.:

From VA: Take I-395 N toward WASHINGTON (over the 14th Street Bridge). Stay in right lane. Take the first exit EAST POTOMAC PARK/PARK POLICE. Take the first RIGHT TURN into the parking lot of National Capital Region Office.

From DC: National Capital Region can be reached either from 15th Street, N.W. or from 395 South via the 9th Street Tunnel.
9th Street Tunnel is south of Constitution Ave. Go through the tunnel keep RIGHT. Take I-395 S, as you merge onto I-395 S stay in the far right lane. Take the first exit EAST POTOMAC PARK/PARK POLICE. At stop sign turn RIGHT onto OHIO DR. At next stop sign turn RIGHT onto BUCKEYE DR. Take next right onto OHIO DR. Turn LEFT into the parking lot of National Capital Region Headquarters.

Go South on 15th Street, N.W. 15th Street becomes Raoul Wallenberg Place. Continue straight on Raoul Wallenberg Place (15th St.) Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto MAINE AVE. S.W then take an immediate SLIGHT RIGHT. Immediately get in the left lane and take the first LEFT onto OHIO DR SW. into the park. At stop sign turn RIGHT onto BUCKEYE DR. Take next right onto OHIO DR. Turn LEFT into the parking lot of National Capital Region Headquarters.

From MD: Take I-395 S onto SW Freeway (stay in the far right lane) toward VIRGINIA. Take the Exit EAST POTOMAC PARK/PARK POLICE. At stop sign turn RIGHT onto Ohio Drive. At stop sign turn RIGHT onto BUCKEYE DR SW. Take next RIGHT onto OHIO DR. Turn LEFT into the parking lot of National Capital Region Headquarters.

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